

# **TITLE: OLD CLOTHES - NEW PATCHWORK**

**GRADE LEVEL: K-6**

**GOAL:** Students will learn creative ways to reduce solid waste by reusing some of what they might throw away by creating functional and artistic projects from fabric scraps.

**MATERIALS:** Patchwork samples, needles, thread or yarn, and batting

## **ACTIVITIES:**

1. Have students bring in colorful worn-out clothes and pieces of patchwork.
2. Share pictures of quilts and other patchwork. Ask students where the individual patches may have come from:
  - a) Why did people in the past make patchwork? In what ways has patchwork become part of history? (Different patterns represent different times or styles.)
  - b) In what other ways have people created reused items that otherwise would have been thrown out?
3. Brainstorm ways to reuse fabric scraps. (Possible ideas: puppets, quilts, pot holders, braided rugs, books, collages, fabric flowers, purses, pillows, etc.)
4. Choose one activity for class or let students choose their own.
5. Projects could be given as gifts, traded or sold in the community.
6. End lesson with discussion with what students could reuse at home.